

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 19-21, 23 and 25-26 are now pending in this application. Claims 3, 6-14, 16, 18, 22, and 24 are previously cancelled. New claims 25-26 are added. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 19-21, and 23 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 20 and 23 are amended herein to clarify the invention.

This paper is a supplemental amendment responsive to the prior art rejections of the office action of May 16, 2011. Entry of this paper is requested if considered before the Examiner makes a next office action or final rejection in the subject patent application.

Further Claim Amendments

Amended claims 1, 20 and 23 are in independent format. Amended claims 1 and 20 differ only in the last 5 lines of each claim. Amended claim 23 is substantially similar to amended claim 20. Amended claim 23 lists the steps in a different order than amended claim 20. Amended claim 23 also includes a limitation not in amended claims 1 or 20, i.e., the contact-bond fixing roller rotates in a direction opposite to rotation of the receiving and transferring roller, (compare the bonding steps of claims 20 and 23).

The independent claims have been rewritten to more clearly recite the subject matter. Of particular significance is that the amended claims 1, 20 and 23 include the following limitation:

- holding the powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller.

A new independent claim 26 also is submitted directed to a method in which a receiving and transferring roller is located adjacent to each of a temporary receiving roller, a press contact roller, and a contact-bond fixing roller. Of particular significance is that a first contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the temporary receiving roller; a second contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the press contact roller; and a bonding region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the contact-bond fixing roller.

The Claims Distinguished Over the Cited Art

Independent claim 1, 20 and 23 distinguish over the cited art based at least on the following claim limitations:

- holding the powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller that holds a powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller. Compare Applicant's figure 2 with Lang's Figure 5.

In applicants' embodiment the powder layer is held to the temporary receiving roller. The roller rotates over an arc length advancing the powder layer until after the arc length the powder layer is exposed allowing the powder layer to be transferred to the base sheet. The guide serves to provide a more uniform powder layer. In contrast, Lang does not include a guide member, nor rotate the powder layer over an arc length before it is transferred to a base sheet. Instead, powder is applied to Lang's roller 164, and as the roller rotates away from the source, the powder is transferred immediately onto the base sheet, (see Lang Figure 5). It is respectfully submitted that the other cited references also do not disclose such a guide member.

Claim 1 further distinguishes over the cited art based on at least the following claim limitations:

- wherein the **powder particle layer is shifted along the first path first portion at a shifting speed that is less than respective shifting speeds of the base sheet along the second path and the covering sheet along the third path, such that the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction.**

Claims 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 19 and 25 ultimately depend from claim 1 and distinguish over the cited art based at least on the same reasons as given for claim 1.

Claims 20 and 23 further distinguish over the cited art based on at least the following claim limitations:

- a surface peripheral **velocity** of the temporary receiving roller **being less** than respective peripheral velocities of the contact-bond fixing roller and the receiving and transferring roller, **such that the powder particle layer transferred onto the base sheet is formed into a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction.**

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and distinguishes over the cited art based at least on the same reasons as given for claim 20.

New claim 26 distinguishes over the cited art for all the same reasons as cited above for claim 1. Claim 26 further distinguishes over the cited art based at least on the following claim limitations:

- rotating in a first direction a **receiving and transferring roller that is located adjacent to each of a temporary receiving roller, a press contact roller, and a contact-bond fixing roller**, wherein a first contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the temporary receiving roller, **a second contact region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the press contact roller, and a bonding region occurs where the receiving and transferring roller is in nearest adjacency to the contact-bond fixing roller;**

- **holding the supplied powder particles onto the temporary receiving roller with a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller as the powder particle layer is moved into the first contact region;**

- **shifting the base sheet along a first path, encompassing in order the first contact region, second contact region, and bonding region, wherein at least from the first contact region to the second contact region and then to the bonding region, the base sheet conforms to a shape of a face of the receiving and transferring roller;**

- **shifting the covering sheet along a third path, encompassing in order said second contact region and said bonding region; and**

- press contacting the covering sheet to the base sheet and powder particle layer in the second contact region, wherein said **receiving and transferring roller and said press contact roller have a closest spacing in the second contact region that allows the base sheet with transferred powder particle layer on the receiving and transferring roller to make contact with a portion of the covering sheet having a shape conforming to a shape of a face of the press contact layer;**

- bonding the base sheet, the powder particle layer and the covering sheet into an integral form in the bonding region, wherein said **receiving and transferring roller and said contact-bond fixing roller have a closest spacing in the bonding region that allows the base sheet, transferred powder particle layer, and covering sheet to be pressed between the contact-bond fixing roller and the receiving and transferring roller to form said integral form.**

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a receiving and transferring roller that is located adjacent to each of a temporary receiving roller, a press contact roller, and a contact-bond fixing roller. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a first contact region, second contact region and bonding region all occurring along a face of a receiving and transferring roller, where such regions are defined as per claim 26.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a guide member extending over an arc length of the temporary receiving roller during rotation of the temporary receiving roller that holds a powder particle layer onto the temporary receiving roller. Compare Applicant's figure 2 with Lang's Figure 5.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a base sheet moving through a first contact region, second contact region and bonding region while having a shape conforming to a shape of the face of the receiving and transferring roller, (i.e., while the base sheet remains on such roller).

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a bonding region distinct from and downstream from a second contact region, nor wherein the base sheet, powder particle layer and covering sheet traverse such regions while on the receiving and transferring roller.

Extra Claims

One further independent claim(s) in excess of three is added. **The fee of \$250 for the claim(s) is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.**

Request for Extension of Time

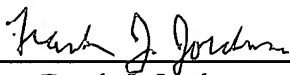
If the Examiner considers this supplemental amendment, Applicants respectfully request the two month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. **The fee of \$560 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.**

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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